

Energize Indiana Update

Friday, June 20, 2003



Governor O'Bannon talks with Bob Hutchings, Cinergy, and Bob Kovach, Ivy Tech, before the Kokomo forum. Presenters, including the governor, stressed the importance of cooperation between private industry and universities in creating high-wage, high-skill jobs in Indiana and preparing the workforce to fill them.

Staff photo



Economic profile:

Department of Commerce Region 4

Cass, Grant, Howard, Miami,
Tipton and Miami counties

Region 4 has a strong mix of industry leaders and higher education partners. The region is home to several branches of Delphi Delco, DuPont PhotoMasks Inc. and DaimlerChrysler as well as Indiana University Kokomo, Purdue University Kokomo, Manchester College, Taylor University, Indiana Wesleyan and Ivy Tech campuses in Kokomo, Logansport, Wabash and Marion.

Success story: Educational Consortium

The **Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Ivy Tech** and **six Wabash County corporations** (North Manchester-based Dexter Axle, OjilIntertech and Heckman Bindery and Wabash-based Wabash MPI/Carver Inc., Thermafiber and Hayes Lemmerz) have formed an educational consortium to train employees in the greater Wabash community. Ivy Tech will provide the training at its Wabash campus using a \$210,285 grant provided by the Department of Workforce Development. When successful, the alliance hopes to expand the training services offered.

The News in Brief...

Forum emphasizes growing the economy

Need for smart growth cited for rural communities
A major theme of Energize Indiana continues to be the development of Indiana's rural communities.

As Wendy Dant Chesser, regional operations manager for the Department of Commerce and former executive director of the Indiana Rural Development Council, puts it, "It's not about making our rural areas urban. It's about making sure that all Indiana communities have access to the latest technologies so that they may enjoy the benefits of Indiana's transforming economy."

During the Q&A period at Wednesday's EI forum in Kokomo, David Steele, SteeleTech, Inc., Logansport, asked Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan to discuss the state's efforts to increase per capita income in rural communities as well as the lowered cost of living those communities typically enjoy.

"Opportunities," Kernan said. "It's true that many Hoosiers living in rural communities have a lower per capita income offset by a lower cost of living. However, more than half of these Hoosiers now commute to urban areas for work. We must make the same opportunities available to them in their communities so that they can both live and work close to home."

The next forum will be Thursday, June 26, in Evansville in the University Center, Carter Hall on the University of Southern Indiana campus. For more information, call (812) 461-5353.

For more about Energize Indiana:

IN Department of Commerce

(317) 232-8800

www.indianacommerce.com

IN Department of Workforce Development

(317) 233-5514

www.workforce.IN.gov

Rural development

(317) 232-8876

www.IN.gov/irdc or www.in.gov/oca

The Ports of Indiana

(317) 232-9200

www.portsofindiana.com

The 21st Century

Research and Technology Fund

(317) 234-1625

www.21fund.org